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**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically identifying a red-eye defect in a region of an image comprising classifying pixels within the region according to ~~values of~~ a ratio of the respective values of a first color channel[[s]] and a second color channel, a red-eye defect[[s]] being identified when the value[[s]] of the ratio exceeds a predetermined value; wherein the classifying of pixels is performed without specifying use of a particular color in the red-eye defect.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a region of an image is first selected for analysis of a value[[s]] of a color channel ratio[[s]] to search for a red-eye defect[[s]].
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ratio of values of color channels comprises a ratio of the darkest color channel to the lightest color channel.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ratio of values of color channels comprises a ratio of the lightest color channel to the darkest color channel.
5. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a red-eye defect in a region of an image comprising classifying pixels within the region according to ~~values of~~ a ratio of the respective values of a first color channel[[s]] and a second color channel, a red-eye defect[[s]] being identified when the value[[s]] of the ratio exceeds a predetermined value; wherein the classifying of pixels is performed without specifying use of a particular color in the red-eye defect.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein a region of an image is first selected for analysis of a value[[s]] of a color channel ratio[[s]] to search for a red-eye defect[[s]].

By Facsimile

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the ratio of values of color channels comprises a ratio of the darkest color channel to the lightest color channel.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the ratio of values of color channels comprises a ratio of the lightest color channel to the darkest color channel.
9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the boundaries containing at least all pixels of a red-eye defect are identified by classifying pixels within the region according to values of a ratio of color channels, red-eye defects being identified when values of the ratio exceed a predetermined value.
10. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the boundaries containing at least all pixels of a red-eye defect are identified by classifying pixels within the region according to values of a ratio of color channels, red-eye defects being identified when values of the ratio do not exceed a predetermined value.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the classification is effected by a procedure selected from the group consisting of segmentation, iterative segmentation, and iterative segmentation based on a threshold value of color channel ratios.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the classification is effected by a procedure selected from the group consisting of segmentation, iterative segmentation, and iterative segmentation based on a threshold value of area ratios.
14. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically identifying an object within in a region of an image comprising classifying pixels within the region according to values of a ratio of the respective values of a first color channel[[s]] and a second color channel, an object being identified when the value[[s]] of the ratio exceeds a predetermined value;

By Facsimile

wherein the classifying of pixels is performed without specifying use of a particular color in the object.

15. (Original) A method of selecting pixels from a digital image that has an eye defect, comprising circumscribing a region including all pixels of a portion of an image comprising an eye, and classifying pixels in this region into eye and non-eye pixels according to one of a plurality of pixel information channels, wherein the one channel is selected as the one of a plurality of channels that contains the largest number of pixels in said region that exceeds an area threshold at a predetermined measure of central tendency computed for each respective channel.

16. (Original) A method of selecting pixels from a digital image that has an eye defect, comprising circumscribing a region including all pixels of a portion of an image comprising an eye by classification of pixels to one of a plurality of pixel information channels, wherein the one channel is selected as the one of a plurality of channels that contains the largest number of pixels in said region that does not exceed an area threshold at a predetermined measure of central tendency computed for each respective channel.

17. (Withdrawn from Consideration) A method of correcting a defect in the image of an eye comprising

defining a defect area;

drawing a virtual geometric shape whose dimensions approximates a dimension of the defect area to inscribe the defect area;

assuming or defining a central portion of the virtual geometric shape to represent the pupil and an outer portion of the virtual circle to represent the iris;

providing different corrective image data to the central portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the pupil as compared to corrective data provided to outer portion of the virtual circle representing the iris.

18. (Withdrawn from Consideration) The method of claim 17 wherein lightness distribution within the outer portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the iris

By Facsimile

is determined, and the correction of image data in the outer portion alters at least one property selected from hue and saturation without substantially changing the relative spatial distribution of lightness variation determined to have been in the outer portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the iris.

19. (Withdrawn from Consideration) The method of claim 17 wherein lightness distribution within the outer portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the iris is determined, and the correction of image data in the outer portion alters hue without substantially changing the relative spatial distribution of lightness variation determined to have been in the outer portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the iris.

20. (Withdrawn from Consideration) A method of correcting a defect in the image of an eye comprising  
 defining a defect area by the method of claim 1;  
 drawing a virtual geometric shape whose dimensions approximate a dimension of the defect area to inscribe the defect area[.];  
 assuming or defining a central portion of the virtual geometric shape to represent the pupil and an outer portion of the virtual circle to represent the iris;  
 providing different corrective image data to the central portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the pupil as compared to corrective data provided to outer portion of the virtual circle representing the iris.

21. (Withdrawn from Consideration) The method of claim 20 wherein lightness distribution within the outer portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the iris is determined, and the correction of image data in the outer portion alters at least one property selected from hue and saturation without substantially changing the relative spatial distribution of lightness variation determined to have been in the outer portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the iris.

22. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein pixels within the bounded region are classified into eye and non-eye pixels according to one of a plurality of pixel information

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channels, wherein the one channel is selected as the one of a plurality of channels that contains the largest number of pixels in said region that exceeds an area threshold at a predetermined measure of central tendency computed for each respective channel.

23. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein pixels within the bounded region are classified into eye and non-eye pixels according to one of a plurality of pixel information channels, wherein the one channel is selected as the one of a plurality of channels that contains the largest number of pixels in said region that exceeds an area threshold at a predetermined measure of central tendency computed for each respective channel.

24. (Withdrawn from Consideration) The method of claim 22 wherein after classification the eye pixels are corrected by

drawing a virtual geometric shape whose dimensions approximate a dimension of the defect area to inscribe the defect area[.];

assuming or defining a central portion of the virtual geometric shape to represent the pupil and an outer portion of the virtual circle to represent the iris;

providing different corrective image data to the central portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the pupil as compared to corrective data provided to outer portion of the virtual circle representing the iris.

25. (Withdrawn from Consideration) The method of claim 23 wherein after classification the eye pixels are corrected by

drawing a virtual geometric shape whose dimensions approximate a dimension of the defect area to inscribe the defect area[.];

assuming or defining a central portion of the virtual geometric shape to represent the pupil and an outer portion of the virtual circle to represent the iris;

providing different corrective image data to the central portion of the virtual geometric shape that represents the pupil as compared to corrective data provided to outer portion of the virtual circle representing the iris.

By Facsimile

26. (Original) A computer having a program therein that can effect a method for detecting identifying a red-eye defect, wherein the method comprises the method of claim 1.

27. (Original) A computer having a program therein that can effect a method for correcting red-eye defect, wherein the method comprises the method of claim 9.

28. (Original) A computer having a program therein that can effect a method for correcting red-eye defect, wherein the method comprises the method of claim 10.

29. (Withdrawn from Consideration) A computer having a program therein that can effect a method for correcting red-eye defect, wherein the method comprises the method of claim 17.

30. (Original) A computer having a program therein that can effect a method for correcting red-eye defect, wherein the method comprises the method of claim 22.

31. (Original) A computer having a program therein that can effect a method for correcting red-eye defect, wherein the method comprises the method of claim 23.

32. (Withdrawn from Consideration) A computer having a program therein that can effect a method for correcting red-eye defect, wherein the method comprises the method of claim 24.

33. (Withdrawn from Consideration) A computer having a program therein that can effect a method for correcting red-eye defect, wherein the method comprises the method of claim 25.

34 - 66. (Cancelled)

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67. (New) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

classifying pixels within a region of an image according to a ratio of the respective values of a first color channel and a second color channel; wherein the classifying of pixels is performed without specifying use of a particular color channel in the region of the image; and,

identifying an object in the region of an image; the object being identified when the value of the ratio exceeds a predetermined value.

68. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 67 wherein the object is a red eye defect.

69. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 67 wherein the identifying is automatic.

70. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 67 further comprising:

providing for preliminarily selecting the region of the image for analysis of a value of a color channel ratio.

71. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 67 wherein the ratio of values of color channels comprises a ratio of the darkest color channel to the lightest color channel.

72. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 67 wherein the ratio of values of color channels comprises a ratio of the lightest color channel to the darkest color channel.

By Facsimile

73. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 67 wherein the boundaries containing at least all pixels of a red-eye defect are identified by classifying pixels within the region according to values of a ratio of color channels, red-eye defects being identified when the value of the ratio is one of exceeding or not exceeding a predetermined value.

74. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 73 wherein pixels within the bounded region are classified into eye and non-eye pixels according to one of a plurality of pixel information channels, wherein the one channel is selected as the one of a plurality of channels that contains the largest number of pixels in said region that exceeds an area threshold at a predetermined measure of central tendency computed for each respective channel.

75. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 67 wherein the classification is effected by a procedure selected from the group consisting of segmentation, iterative segmentation, iterative segmentation based on a threshold value of color channel ratios, and iterative segmentation based on a threshold value of area ratios.

76. (New) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps in selecting pixels in a digital image, the steps comprising:

circumscribing a region including all pixels of a portion of a digital image; and,

classifying pixels in this region into eye and non-eye pixels according to a selected channel of a plurality of pixel information channels, wherein the selected channel is selected as the channel of the plurality of channels that contains the largest number of pixels in said region that one of exceeds or does not exceed an area threshold at a predetermined measure of central tendency computed for each respective channel.